[Translation]

Elections of Panchayat

2657. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Panchayat elections have since been completed in the country after the amendment to the Constitution;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the number of States where Panchayat elections have not been conducted;

(c) whether any deadline has been fixed for the States to hold Panchayat elections;

(d) if so, the time by which the Government propose to conduct elections in the States; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) Panchayats elections have been completed in almost all the States/UTs except Bihar and Goa (at Zila Parishad level). Among the Union Territories, Panchayat elections are due in Lakshadweep and Pondicherry.

(c) to (e) Holding of elections to Panchayats is the responsibility of State/UT Governments. They are required to complete the election process in respect of Panchayats within such time as is absolutely necessary for completing the same.

Conference on Urban Transport

2658. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of International Conferences organised so far in the National Capital Region of Delhi with regard to urban transport in developing countries and the dates on which these conferences were held;

(b) the main subjects discussed therein;

(c) the reaction of the Government in this regard; and

(d) the details of proposed target/objects in this connection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) International Conference on Urban Transport (CODATU-VII) was held in New Delhi from 12-16 February, 1996. Another International conference viz. Regional Policy Seminar on Urban Transport and Mass Transit was held in New Delhi in October, 1996 (October 14-17).

(b) The subjects discussed at these Conferences were :

(i) Policy Planning and Transport Demand Management.

(ii) Public-Private Partnership and Financing.

(iii) Major Issues in Transport Infrastructure.

(iv) Mass Transit System/Public Transport.

(v) Role of Local Authorities in Traffic Management.

(vi) MRT system in Urban Areas.

(vii) Land-use Planning and Development Needs.

(viii) Transport Demand Forecast in Urban Areas.

(ix) Funding of Urban Transport Projects including Levy of Dedicated Taxes/Cesses.

(c) and (d) The deliberations at the above conferences would be kept in view by the Government while formulating policies in this regard.

[English]

Land Reforms

2659. SHRI BHIM PRASAD DAHAL : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the land holdings pattern has changed in the country since independence;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the States in the country which have successfully implemented land reforms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Statement is enclosed.

(c) The States of Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and Karnataka are in the top in listribution of Government wasteland which was mainly vested due to abolition of Zamindaris and the said States distributed more than 30 lakh acres, 24 lakh acres, 13.8 lakh acres and 13.7 lakh acres respectively.

In distribution of Bhoodan land Bihar tops the list by distributing more than 7 lakh acres followed by Orissa (5.8 lakh acres) and Uttar Pradesh (4.2 lakh acres).

In distribution of ceiling surplus land, the State of West Bengal tops the list by distributing 9.65 lakh acres followed by Andhra Pradesh (5.94 lakh acres) and Maharashtra (5.5 lakh acres). Though the figure of distribution is only 4.5 lakh acres in the State of Jammu and Kashmir, the performance of the said State is considered very significant as they have completed distribution of total land taken possession much earlier than anybody else.